



Performance Track Background

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The National Environmental Performance Track (Performance Track) was designed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to recognize and encourage top environmental performers—those companies that voluntarily go beyond compliance with regulatory requirements to attain levels of environmental performance that benefit the environment, people, and communities.

Performance Track is intended for top-performing facilities of all types, sizes, and complexity—public or private, manufacturing or service-oriented. All must have proven records of regulatory compliance, an operational Environmental Management System (EMS), and a demonstrated commitment to continued improvement and outreach to the community and the public. These companies set the pace by demonstrating successful ways to increase protection of public health and the environment.

Benefits of membership in Performance Track include low priority for routine inspections, national recognition, use of the Performance Track logo, listing on EPA Web sites, networking opportunities, and interactions with senior EPA officials. EPA is proposing a regulation that will extend hazardous waste accumulation time to 180 days for Performance Track facilities, and administrative flexibility in record keeping and reporting requirements under MACT and CWA. EPA formed a mentoring program, in which existing members guide potential members through the Performance Track application process and assist them with improving environmental performance. In addition, members also have access to an online database that features each participant's commitments and achievements. Forged through a partnership with greenbiz.com, the database enables members to tap into 600 environmental "best" practices from industry leaders.

Working with states, EPA will offer Performance Track facilities state-specific administrative and regulatory benefits through five signed PT-State Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with Texas, Colorado, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. States participating in a MOA offer state programs similar to Performance Track, making it easier for members to benefit from both programs. To date, more than 300 facilities have been accepted as Performance Track members.